



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56

SEPTEMBER 2003

NO.1

SEPTEMBER MEETING

"PROGRAMS" Brad Armstrong W1YX

As a welcome back to Club general membership meetings, September's program will be a bonus two-for-one special! We will have presentations by both Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, and John "Van" VanGriethuysen, N2BNE.

Judy will be talking about amateur emergency communications in today's world. Topics covered will include what the ARES/RACES organizations are, what is going on locally, and how you can participate in this important aspect of amateur radio. Signup sheets for ARES will be available as well. Judy is the Emergency Coordinator for Monroe County and has completed the ARECC Level III certification as well as FEMA training.



RaRa

MEETING

September 5, 2003

8:00 PM

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.**

**Emergency Communications
& JOTA**

Presented by

Judy Stonehill N2KXS

John VanGriethuysen N2BNE

Van's topic will be the Jamboree On The Air, National Scouting event coming October. JOTA is an annual operating activity that seeks to put Scouts from all around the world in touch with amateur radio and with each other on the air. This talk is sure to include information and photos from past JOTA events as well as what can be expected at the 46th annual event this year. I participated in this with my son last year and we had a great time!



These are both great and timely topics, and All Club members and guests are encouraged to attend. My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. If you have a program idea, especially one that showcases ways for local hams to get involved (doing, building, learning, any way at all), please contact me as soon as possible so I can get you on the schedule. See you at the meeting!

BLACKOUT!

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

The Monroe County amateur radio operators were impressive during the recent blackout! The turnout of hams, their behavior and the quality of communications was exemplary. They provided an excellent snap shot of the local outage and availability of services. They were in action BEFORE the emergency was declared in Monroe County.

At 4:13 EDT on August 14, 2003 about 50 million people in the Northeastern N.A. continent lost electricity. This included about 80% of the Rochester metropolitan area. By 4:30

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333
RARA Hotline 442-0587 Website: www.rochesterham.net

Editor.....Raymond R. Pickens WA2MYG
215 Mystic Lane Rochester, NY 14623-5426 (585) 334-8724
Internet: wa2myg@rochester.rr.com

Managing Editor.....John A. (Jack) Kuecken KE2QJ
2 Round Trail Drive Pittsford, NY 14534-3202 (585) 381-5455
Internet: ke2qj@aol.com

Assistant Editor.....George E. Platteter AA2FO

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OFFICERS:

President: George Platteter, AA2FO.....334-4488
Internet: aa2fo@localnet.com
Vice-President: Brad Armstrong W1YX..... 1-315-986-8638
Internet: w1yx@arrl.net
Secretary: Bob Roberts WA2QAU.....538-9555
Internet: (rrobert4@rochester.rr.com)
Treasurer: Richard Goslee K2VCZ.....334-1762
Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dale Fravel, N2LWY.....581-1175
Internet: n2lwvy@arrl.net
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....254-0722
Internet: n2bel@frontiernet.net
Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929
Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net
Bill Hopkins, AA2YV.....586-5009
Internet: wlhopkin@naz.edu
George Masny, KA2GPJ.....377-7853
Internet: ka2gpj@arrl.net
Raymond R. Pickens WA2MYG.....334-8724
Internet: wa2myg@arrl.net
William Shaw N2EKR.....288-1547
Internet: wshaw@rochester.rr.com

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Public Relations: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

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PREZ SAYS.....

George Platteter, AA2FO

It's that time again. Hope everyone enjoyed the summer. The Hamfest was Great Harold Smith, K2HC, and his gang, put on a great show. One new idea, tried By Harold this year, was the "Bring and Buy" concept, which was a huge success.

The RIT Club was awesome. They really stole the show with their radio controlled blimp and ATV. Yours truly was given a chance to fly it and really had a ball. Did alright a first, but when my left hand got mixed up with the right hand on the control box, the blimp became part of the Dome ceiling. It took about a half and hour and a vender with a long pole to dislodge it. The students did a great job flying it and I hope they will return again next year.

Some of the other activities that took place during the summer were the Emergency Education Committee and the Board of Directors meetings. The Emergency Education Committee, chaired by Judy Stonehill, N2KCS, was particularly active.

Another activity which took place was Kieth Freeberg N2BEL, and his crews involvement at the Buffalo Hamfest. Won't go into details, (will let Kieth do that), but they were awarded a huge trophy, which Kieth presented to the Board at the last meeting Guess who got to store it until it can be properly displayed at club facilities When I brought it into the house and set it on the floor in an appropriate place, my dog, Mutt, took a strong disliking to it and started growling and barking at it. Needless to say the trophy is now in a closet. That's about it for now. See you at the meeting.

Silent Keys

Donald B. Herman KB2DK

S.K. July 12, 2003

Patrick C. Moyer, JD N2AIW

S.K. June 27, 2003

Arthur J. Wachs, N2DPM

S.K. June 5, 2003

E. Ashley (Ash) Palmer K2EAW

S.K. August 15, 2003

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Continued from blackout page 1

many hams had flocked to the 146.88 repeater. Brad Allan, KB2CHY control op of the machine started operations from his car. Peter Fournia, W2SKY recorded information from his home and later became net control operator.

The net operated unofficially for more than 2 hours until control was passed to the Monroe County RACES station at the Emergency Operations Center. During that time hams were passing important information that painted a picture of the situation and helped with solutions. For example, reports were gathered of locations that had power and of gas stations and stores that were still operating. Others gave details about traffic flow and identified gas stations with shorter lines. Some hams indicated a need for a HT or batteries while other hams offered theirs. N2UIO offered a generator and batteries. Many others offered their availability to serve at shelters if needed. K2MP was first to arrive at the EOC followed by our MC radio officer N2EH and soon after by N2JAC. They monitored the net and kept us informed of the EOC status. WA2MDO covered the night shift. N2HJD was on standby to link several of his repeaters that were still up. W1YX got his 147.18 repeater up on emergency power. Some area repeaters were successfully operating on emergency power and others were down. In all, over 50 hams had checked into the net by 7:00 PM. Many more were listening without checking in.

It is notable that much of this occurred BEFORE the an emergency was declared by the MC EOC. Our amateur radio emergency organizations were never activated. However, the hams were in operation. This was a very encouraging show for amateur radio emergency preparedness.

Our readiness was no accident. The 146.88 repeater operated flawlessly. This repeater is operated and funded by the Rochester Radio Repeater Association and was upgraded with remote and backup equipment in 2002. Monroe County cooperates with RRRA to keep the repeater operational. Monroe County purchased, owns and provides all of the amateur radio equipment at the EOC. It is operated by the RACES organization under the call sign of WC2ABJ. The RACES organization utilizes county, FMEA and NYS exercises for training purposes.

Continued on page 10

NEW YORK STATE TRAFFIC LAW (s397)

Dwight Hill K2KWK

One of the issues for ham radio this summer has been the New York State Traffic law (s397) regarding the use of scanners in a vehicle. The issue came up on one of the ham radio web sites because a ham was given an appearance ticket for having a scanner in his truck. Naturally as the story spread there were lots of questions and legitimate concerns.

Reading the actual wording of the law gives no comfort to hams either, even though it states hams are exempt. Because the law was written in the 1970's it bears little relation to ham equipment today. That's what prompted the ARRL to petition the FCC in 1991 (Docket 91-36) to pre-empt all local and state laws regulating modern and mobile ham equipment and operators. The short version of the story is the FCC actually agreed that states and local authorities could not regulate ham radio equipment in vehicles. The FCC went even further to state officially some pretty decent things about the regulation of the Amateur Radio Service. They reiterated the general purposes of ham radio as we all know them. They then officially reminded all branches of the government of a "sense of Congress" position in support of Amateur Radio.

All this is interesting reading and you can find the final Memorandum Opinion and Order of the FCC on the ARRL web site. It does not show up on the FCC web site at this time.

Now all this cannot prevent a misinformed officer from citing you for your ham equipment capable of receiving outside the ham band. Waving your ham ticket and Docket 91-36 at the officer will probably not work either. But on your "day in court" a copy of both would be an asset to help the judge decide your case. And, an attorney of your own choosing who understands the issue may be helpful for you too.

However if there is another reason for stopping you in addition to your ham radio then certainly you will need to answer for that as well.

Thanks to the ARRL for fixing this vital issue in light of today's concerns and equipment. Thanks to John Hennessy, N1KB, of the ARRL for help in finding the bottom line - Docket 91-36. (Docket 91-36 is 12 pages)

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RaRa RADIO COACHES NEW PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS AND EQUIPMENT

Peter Fournia W2SKY

The Radio Coaches group has racked up an outstanding reputation conducting a ham radio based program at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS) over the past 3 years. Beginning with this fall's semester TJMS will become a Junior High school housing grades 7 through 9. Based on their well earned reputation our Radio Coaches group has been invited to continue their efforts with an after school ham radio based program open to all three grades when school resumes in the fall.

The group has received necessary commitments and permissions for installation of antennas on the roof of the building and fourth floor classroom space for setup of HF and VHF stations. The current principal of TJMS, Mr. Milton, envisions the Radio Coaches program as a core activity in a Communications Technology emphasis for the new Junior High.

The group has received necessary commitments and permissions for installation of antennas on the roof of the building and fourth floor classroom space for setup of HF and VHF stations. The current principal of TJMS, Mr. Milton, envisions the Radio Coaches program as a core activity in a Communications Technology emphasis for the new Junior High. With details still needing to be worked out we expect to be asked to provide licensed hams as coaches/mentors for an hour to and hour and a half one day a week after school. The time slot will begin at about 2:30PM. Sessions will comprise basic electronic kit construction, coaching in the operational theories involved in the construction project and on-air activities. The underlying basis for this program is to strengthen student's language, mathematics, science and social skills.

We will need a core volunteer group of at least 8 licensed hams to be able to cover grade level sub-groups and allow for rotation of assignments among the volunteers. Several of our Coaches over the past three years have been able to arrange with their employers for time away from the job as a community service. We have already a Kenwood TS820 HF transceiver but more than one wouldn't be a

bad idea. We will also be needing antennas, coaxial cable, microphones, keys/paddles, laptop computers capable of running various digital modes, software and whatever else you have taking up space in your shack. We also need a 2 meter FM base transceiver.

A hands on project is an important part of the program. More ideas and people to follow up with the projects are welcome. For example, one idea is to use Wi-Fi communications on the 2.4 GHz band. Jr high students in Texas have made 2.4 GHz horn antennas for AO-40 satellite monitoring. The idea here is to use the same antennas for Wi-Fi communications between two different schools. The educational value and exposure of amateur radio should be obvious. Anyone want to lead this project or other similar projects?

Another important part of the program will be on-air QSO's with other Jr high school students. We will be in a continuous search to schedule QSO with students and schools both inside and outside Rochester. Any assistance in searching or helping our students enjoy these on-air experiences will be helpful.

With details still needing to be worked out we expect to be asked to provide licensed hams as coaches/mentors for an hour to and hour and a half one day a week after school. The time slot will begin at about 2:30PM. Sessions will comprise basic electronic kit construction, coaching in the operational theories involved in the construction project and on-air activities. The underlying basis for this program is to donate time, effort or material call either Peter Fournia , W2SKY at 377 0535 or Allan Pellnat, KX2H at 244 4667 or you can e-mail questions or comments to RadioCoaches@yahoogroups.com.

**VE TESTING (W5YI-VEC)
THE FIRST THURSDAY OF
THE MONTH (except if it falls
on a holiday) Registration 17:30
contact Person Charles N2IM
n2im@arrl.net/585-225-8406
KODAK PK. BULDING 28
(corner of Palm St. & Ridge Rd. E)**

ARISS - Webster Event September 10

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Students in Mr. Christman's technology class at Thomas High School in Webster, NY will be talking to astronaut Ed Lu aboard the International Space Station. This will occur on Wednesday, September 10 at 8:30 AM EDT when the ISS passes over the central US. There is a team of local amateur radio operators eager to help make this a successful contact.

This event was requested by Mr. Lu prior to the launch of expedition 7 in April. He had 3 ARISS picks, two of them in Webster. The first event occurred at Klem Rd. Elementary School in May using a telebridge contact. That was done by an amateur radio station in Hawaii who had a radio link to the ISS and a telephone link to the school. Thomas high school insisted on a direct contact. This sent the school and ARISS mentors scurrying for an amateur radio satellite station that could be setup at the school. The trail led to our RARA team as a result of Rocky Chambers, W2ROC's application for a similar event at a Rush - Henrietta elementary school. That contact is expected to occur in September 2004.

The team will use a 20 element cross polarized yagi on the school roof with azimuth/elevator rotors. Two students will control the antenna by monitoring a computer satellite tracking program called NOVA. The main transceiver will be a Kenwood TS-2000 running 100 watts on the 145 MHz amateur radio band. Peter Fournia, W2SKY is leading the team and will operate the main satellite station. Rocky Chambers, W2ROC will supply and operate a back-up station. Antenna mounting preparations on the school roof were completed by Norm Turner, WB2LQB. Ray Waringer, W2SAX will be coordinating the school's TV studio and providing audio connections. Jim Stefano, W2COP will coordinate IRLP and EchoLink broadcasts assisted by Jon Dickason, N2JAC.

Additional people are assisting with planning, consulting and hands on assistance before, during and after the event. They are Jim Karpick K2TTP, Walter Obenhofer NQ2O, Jim DiTucci N2IXD and ARISS mentors Fred

Continued bottom of next column

RaRa e-mail reflector

George Masny KA2GPJ

If you have visited the RaRa web site on the Internet, you probably noticed "e-Mail Reflector" buried among the many options. Well... It's not the longest element of a tribander used as a bat to swat SPAM.

An e-mail reflector is a program that acts as the forwarding broadcaster of e-mail messages to the names on a distribution list. Here's how it works:

1. One member of the distribution list composes an e-mail message or replies to one.
2. The user sends the message to the e-mail reflector (which to the user usually appears to be the name of the list itself).
3. The e-mail reflector receives the message and automatically forwards a copy to each person on the distribution list. The advantage of using an e-mail reflector is that the distribution list can be centrally managed so that everyone will always have the most up-to-date version.

So what does this do for you? It is a very efficient way to keep in touch with RaRa people. An email reflector will keep you informed of all the latest developments. It is self administered. YOU control when and how you receive messages. The messages are screened to prevent off topic items.

The RaRa Rag comes out once a month – the reflector can be used at any time there something worth sharing with the membership.

In addition, the email addresses are private... not distributed to anyone!

So next time you visit the RaRa Web Site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> don't forget to sign up!

Click on the e-Mail Reflector option and follow the Sign up Instructions! Yahoo will ask you to fill out a profile - don't hesitate to do so. A profile can consist of as little as checking the sex box. You don't have to tell them how often, either, unless you want to brag... ;-)

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATERS

Gephart WA2CAM and Steve VE3TBD in Ottawa. You can listen to the event on our local EchoLink and IRLP repeaters. One such repeater is on 442.55 MHz. Wish us luck. The low elevation of this orbit pass will limit our reception to about 9 minutes.

Hello fellow Scouts & Scouters

John VanGriethuysen N2BNE

For the 46th Annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), October 18, 2003

A group of Ham Radio Operators from the Rochester, NY area (Otetiana Council BSA) will be operating JOTA at the J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation (a.k.a. Camp Cutler), located near Naples, New York.

The Special Event "One by One" call sign of "K2O" for 46th JOTA 2003 has been granted for us to use that Weekend, (+/- a week for rain dates & testing) Many amateur radio hands on exhibits are will be displayed Saturday including:

- Hidden transmitter games
- * Satellite station operations
- * HF stations (As close to Scout Frequencies as QRM lets us)
- * VHF/UHF repeater usage
- J-Code (JOTA Code new 92)
- * PSK 31 Operation
- * Slowscan TV & * Morse code sending / receiving games
- * Actual Radio (low power) Broadcasting (* for RMB)

Over 1200 Scouts, Cubs and Scouters are expected!

*(New for '03)

Where possible we are willing to work with the Scouts that

Have registered ahead of time to get their "Radio Merit Badge"

And met with their RMB Counselors.

Two good sites for information about JOTA see: ARRL's "What Is JOTA?" website:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>

And the BSA International Division:

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) website :

<http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html>

(Contact John VanGriethuysen, N2BNE for Details)

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, September 1983 Ed Gable K2MP

The September 9th meeting was a program on Satellite TV receivers by Clyde Washburn Jr., K2SZC and his Dad, Clyde Sr., K2OAN, using the 40/8 venue on University Avenue. Program Chairman and RaRa VP Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, urged members to come forward with desired meeting topics. Writing for the Rochester VHF group was Ed Mahar, WB2ZJY, telling of their meetings at 111 Westfall Road. Bruce Sidari, WB2TMC, was announced as the new VHF Bulletin Editor. Incoming RaRa Prez Bill Thiel, K2KGE, wrote the usual season opening letter welcoming all to join in new and better activities. Bill also announced that RaRa has become an ARRL Special Service Club. Monroe County Emergency Coordinator Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced this year's public service events numbered 16 with as little as 5-6 operators and up to 40-45 operators for the larger events. Participants walked, rode on bikes, rode in sports cars, traversed the water on sail boats, watched, but did not ride on ponies, horses, bikes (with and without motors) canal boats and carriages. These events are a lot of fun and offer great training for more serious communication needs. Ed urges more people to sign up for the RaRa public service events. The real thing did indeed arise for local amateur Herb Haddleton, WA2MST, who, while enjoying the sunset from his Point Peninsula (Watertown) country QTH, noticed a small boat capsize and two occupants enter the water. With visibility quickly decreasing, Herb put out a call on the 146.70 repeater and coordinated a 2-1/2 hour successful rescue effort. The Rochester DX Assn kicked off their new season with a slide show presentation on their 1983 FD activities. The RDXA then met at the Colonial Hotel on Empire Blvd. Jim O'Brien, K2UDP, announced that the RaRa QSL cards were completed and ready for delivery. These stylish cards depicted a modernistic look at the Rochester skyline using PC board traces as city streets and electrical components as buildings and street cars. (I have sent out several thousands of these and still get many comments on their attractiveness - Ed) From the Want Ads you could buy a TET Tri-band yagi from

Continued bottom of next page

Dates for RRRRA meetings 2003-2004

September 19, 2003	Electronic QSL Demo
October 17, 2003	Emergency Preparedness/Pumpkin Patrol
November 21, 2003	Tune-up clinic night
December 19, 2003	to be announced...Family night dinner
January 16, 2004	
February 20, 2004	
March 19, 2004	Auction
Night/ talkin for Hamfest redness	
April 16, 2004	Nominations for office night
May 21, 2004	
June 18, 2004	this may be held on June 4, 2004 Election Night
July/August	Time off/ possible picnic

NEXT RAG DEADLINE 9/16/2003

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Continued from preceding page

Bruce Sanborn, KB2WN. The Heathkit Center, at 937 Jefferson Road, remained a long time advertiser.

ARRL Awards

A reminder that you can have your QSL cards checked locally for ARRL WAS, VUCC and DXCC awards. Contact Ed Gable, K2MP, ARRL Field Checker, at (585) 392-3088, or k2mp@eznet.net, for more information. See also www.arrl.org for ARRL Award details.

From the desk of the President of RRRRA

Brad Allen KB2CHY

Well another summer is almost gone; I have been recovering from foot surgery done on June 30. All seems to be going well. The repeater has been working flawless and during the blackout, many Hams checked in to offer services and gave information. This certainly shows the interest is there. New things are happening on the emergency coordination front for the County of Monroe. That is all I will say at this time. The first meeting of RRRRA will be on September 19 at 8:00PM at the Pittsford Town hall. As entertainment for the evening, I will attempt to show how to electronically make and send QSL cards from the internet unless something more important comes along in the mean time. We still have an opening for vice president.

The RRRRA website is being upgraded by Phil, WW2E. I have updated the one we have now; Phil is making many changes including a way to join/renew over the web using PayPal as a secure way to pay your dues. We do have expenses and this is the time of year for renewal, actually October.

I also challenge every member to bring at least one guest to the September meeting. New hams are invited to join us. I guess that is all I have for now and I hope to see a good turnout in September. Let's welcome the new 2003-2004 season with a bang. The October meeting may have a theme of emergency preparedness. This may include a speaker from our Emergency Coordinator. Please be ready to learn about being prepared. October is also Pumpkin Patrol month. Now is the time to set a night or two aside for this effort. That is it for now... See everyone in September.

FOR SALE:

T-50H Aluma heavy duty Tower. 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retails for \$2,500. Asking \$2,250. Detailed technical specs at <http://www.alumatower.com>.

Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retails for \$469 + S&H. Asking \$400. Buy both For \$2,600!!! . Call Esteban Piva N2MLG (585) 746-5118.

RaRa RAG 7

Pumpkin Patrol 2003

Ed Holdsworth N2EH

The Pumpkin Patrol October 30-31 takes on a different glow this year with the many different acts of violence that occurred this year on the inter-state system. Last year we were able to cover most of the bridges in Monroe County but were unable to cover those bridges that have metal shields. This year I would like to cover them also.

We will be activated the same as previous years - 7:00 - 11:59pm both days. There will be sign-up sheets at the September and October meetings. You can call me at home, 585-624-1929 or you can drop me a note.

I hope to get a coordinator from the Buffalo Zone to answer any questions you may have. This program will be activate by the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Rochester Amateur Packet Society

Jack Tripp W2JAT

So you picked up a TNC at the Ham-fest. What can you do with it? Come to our meeting with your questions and there will always be someone to help you connect that GIZMO to your radio and computer. You don't need to be a member to visit our meetings, but if you decide to join, membership in RAPS is open to anyone in the amateur radio community who has an interest in packet radio. Experienced packeteers, as well as newcomers, are welcome to join. We meet on the **2nd Thursday** of each month from September through May, at 7:30 P.M. in Room 76-2150, Bldg. 76, RIT - Jefferson Road. The most convenient parking lot is Lot F. Maps of the RIT campus are available at: <http://facilities.rit.edu/index.asp?page=map.asp>

Dues are currently \$1.00 per year.

RAPS Club Call sign: KB2WYA

RAPS on the Internet: www.qsl.net/raps

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Program: Open Forum - where now brown cow?

Future Meeting Dates:

October 9, 2003

November 13, 2003

December 11, 2003

RaRa RAG 8

RaRa

Amateur Radio

License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete

A License Class

SATURDAY

September 20, 2003

Registration - 8:30 AM

Testing - 9:00 AM

NEW LOCATION

ROOM 2150 IN BUILDING 76

Rochester Institute of Technology

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 14623

(Turn south at the signal light between The Radisson Inn and the Genesee River At the traffic circle bear to the right look For parking lot F at the far end of lot F is Building 76 go in the main entrance up the Stairs to the second floor turn to the left To room 2150 the hall runs in a circle so If you miss it you will end up back where You started)

RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

Another semester starts Monday September 8, 2003 19:00 and continuing for the next 12 Mondays in room 1230 building 76 on the RIT Campus. A campus map can be viewed and or downloaded @ www.rit.edu click on campus map and go for it.

We will be running classes in CW (element 1) Technician Theory (element 2), General Theory (element 3), at the time of writing we have no instructor for the Extra Theory hopefully that will change by class time.

WANTED

EXTRA CLASS THEORY INSTRUCTOR

RaRa LICENSE CLASS

Call or email Ray WA2MYG

wa2myg@arri.net/334-8724

Emergency Communications in Monroe County

Monroe County Emergency Coordinator

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

We had the "opportunity" last week to see what can happen in our community when the power goes out in a widespread area. (See, also Peter Fournia's, W2SKY, article in this issue of the Rag.) As we could have predicted, calls did not get through to the overloaded 911 system and cell phones worked sporadically. It was dangerous to drive where the traffic lights were out and people didn't treat intersections as 4-way stops. People outside the blackout area were unable to find out if their relatives were okay. Amateur radio came through, though, providing information about where the boundaries of power outages were, pointing people to gas stations and food stores that were open so driving could be kept to a minimum, and even passing Health and Welfare traffic to let someone know their relatives were safe.

Last Thursday's "drill" proved the worth of amateur radio emergency communications. It also pointed out the importance of being prepared.

An initiative is under way and gaining momentum in Monroe County to encourage hams to become involved in emergency communications. We held a meeting to determine the level of interest in such an undertaking and to listen to concerns and ideas related to training, preparedness, and amateur radio operator emergency communication roles and responsibilities. There was a lively discussion with many good ideas. We have monthly meetings planned through the end of the year to continue our discussions and planning. They're scheduled to be held at RIT on September 18th, October 16th, November 20th, and December 18th - all Thursdays and all starting at 1900.

I encourage everyone who has an interest in emergency communications and traffic handling to come to the meetings. They're open to all Monroe County hams and we would like your ideas, your help, and your participation. In exchange, you'll be able to take part in training, to hear presentations

related to emergency communications, and to be in on the planning.

American Red Cross training is already available to us, thanks to arrangements made by Greg Michels, KC2GXV. This training will be repeated as hams express interest. There will be opportunities, also, to take part in workshops, in field and "table top" drills, and simulations to develop your tactical and formal traffic handling skills.

In these times, emergency communications are critical and they're an integral part of the amateur radio service. If you have an interest in getting involved, please join us. If you're not sure whether you'd like to get involved, come to the meetings and find out what it's all about. If you have questions, please send me an email at n2kxs@arrl.net. I hope to see you on September 18th.

QTH for Sale

Greece: 1850 ft-sq split-level on wooded lot 430 ft deep. 64 ft Rohn 45G 140 ft behind the house fed through buried conduit. 40 ft 2 in Aluminum telescoping mast permanently installed through roof on rear of upperlevel Two "telephone" poles either side of tower for 80m dipole center fed from tower. All feedlines cleanly enter first floor radio shack through interior wall. Built-in L-shape operator desk. Plenty of room for second tower. Premium built house with many, many features constructed in 1974. Casement windows. New roof installed in August. Freshly stained cedar siding. 4-zone HW baseboard. 25,000 BTU AC.

Please call with any questions.

Rick, W2RW

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Are You Smarter Than the Average Ham?

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

In a club challenge at the Buffalo Hamfest this summer, Rochester Hams met the challenge head on. Four teams from area clubs, including the host Buffalo club, took part in the ARRL co-sponsored "Club Challenge." At stake, the super gaudy, 3 feet tall "Club Challenge Trophy" and, most importantly, bragging rights for the coming year.

At a future date, we will be taking suggestions on what to turn the trophy into. I've already heard it could be a mini-lighthouse, a un-"Led" Zeppelin ultra-UHF antenna or one REALLY weird 'boat anchor.' Wait until you see it! Perhaps we can persuade our President to bring it to the September meeting?

In all seriousness, we are proud to have fielded a winning team in this endeavor. The challenge was 30 questions from the FCC Extra Class question pool to be answered in twenty minutes. Our team, lead by Don Dunn (AB2NM) and ably staffed by Nolan Stephany (N2EAW), Mark Delaney (KC2GMG) and Keith Freeberg (N2BEL), answered 18 of the 30 correctly for highest score. (I guess we can't brag too much just getting 60% right.)

I must say I was surprised at how many of those questions I just did not know. We put our heads together and guessed when we had no idea at all about a "Hairpin Circuit." (I've seen hairpin curves but never a hairpin circuit that I can remember.)

So, who wants to join the team for next year? Come on, review the question pool and we will have a chance to bring home an even gaudier "Club Challenge" trophy and bragging rights next summer. You have got to see this thing! Come to the September meeting and we will unveil the masterpiece for all to see. Then you too can submit your ideas for its creative use!

Good Things to Do

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

There are still a few great Public Service Events we need Hams to help with. Sign up at the September meeting. These include;

Fall Foliage 150: Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28, 2003

Sponsor Agency: American Diabetes Association - New York State (Ham Radio preferred method of communication for all events.)

Special Features: Free overnight accommodations at NYSCC in Seneca Falls, Entertainment @ NYSCC Day 1, Wineries as Rest Stops, Scenic views of the Finger Lakes

Location: Starts and ends in Geneva, New York
Approximate Hours of Operation: 08:00 - 15:00 each day

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and snacks provided both days "T" Shirt: Volunteer shirt
Equipment Needed: Mobile - two meter, 15 watts or higher (some limited areas accessible by HT)

Route Features: Steep drop offs and roadways open to regular high speed traffic so risks to cyclists are very real.

Walk for Diabetes: Saturday, October 4, 2003

Sponsor Agency: American Diabetes Association - Rochester (Ham Radio preferred method of communication for all events.)

Location: Seneca Park (lower level) Approximate Hours of Operation: 08:00 - 12:00

Meals: Breakfast provided "T" Shirt: Volunteer shirt (amateur radio as sponsor)

Equipment Needed: HT - two meter, 21/2 watts or higher

Special Requests: The American Diabetes Association has asked if it is possible to have two or more hams circulating through the walkers on bicycles. Their concern; spot and get help for any walkers that may fall or become injured in some way as quickly as possible.

Getting the Message out Ham Radio (Educating the Public)

Kieth Freeberg N2BEL

Have you ever thought about the impression the general populace has of Ham Radio? When I tell people I'm a Ham I often here in response, "Oh, you do that CB lingo stuff." It usually takes a lot of explaining, sometimes more than their patience can stand, to show a plausible difference. It seems people talking on radios or communicating in special modes is something the general public just doesn't understand, and just doesn't get the positive attention of the community.

I'm sure you have run into even more

Continued top of next page

shows of indifference from people you've talked with or perhaps even less than approving glances from acquaintances that know little more about radio than clicking the power switch. Perhaps they believe that beyond entertainment value, there is little reason to have it. Perhaps they even equate you, due to their lack of understanding, with some of those distasteful talk show hosts?

How then can we change these perceptions? Untrue perceptions of distasteful talk show hosts or perhaps Hams secluded nerds? One suggestion is to get involved in organized forms of public education. And, there are lots of opportunities through Rochester Area Radio Educators (RARE). There are some dozen or so programs active in the Greater Rochester Area and it is easy to get involved.

All are welcome to get involved for an hour or two each year in one of the many existing or new educational programs. You can find out just how two hours a year can help bring understanding of our avocation and its value to the community. It is easy to get involved, it's flexible, and it honors our commitments to family and our hobby. To find out more, go to www.rochesterham.org, email n2bel@frontiernet.net or call Keith at 585-254-0722.

Continued from blackout pages 1 and 3

Additionally, the ARRL's emergency organization is ARES. This has become popular in recent months and is headed by Judy Stonehill, N2KXS. ARES has started monthly meetings at RIT and a series of training courses with the American Red Cross. Hams from both organizations cooperated seamlessly during the blackout of 2003.

Thanks to the following stations who were known to be available. Many others were listening and would likely be available if RACES or ARES were activated. KB2CHY, N2JAC, W2SKY, AA2YV, N2IXD, N2KXS, W2JAT, WB2QMY, N2EZV, WB2SXY, N2BNE, KC2BTW, KC2KPI, KB2KWO, N2BWH, N2KVZ, WA2UCY, KC2JPI, W1YX, N2CK, KC2KNH, N2UIO, W2COP, K2LKK, KT4BA, WY7Q, KB2BLS, KC2IQV, N2IZY, N2LWN, W2RLK, K2SI, WC2ABJ, K2MP, KC2LAJ, K1QOF, WA2MYG, K2ERT, KC2IDW, KC2KPI, KB2SOZ, WB3LHI, N1TOF, WA2EKL, WB2YJH, N2HJD, WA2GAP, WB4FBR, N2GLS, W2FEZ, WB2RJB, K9FTB, KC2HTI, WB2MDO

AMATEUR RADIO BULLETINS

Dwight Hill K2KWK

Amateur radio voice bulletins are available to local hams on the VHF-FM and UHF-FM bands twice a week. Anyone with a FM ham set or a scanner can receive them. Hams can keep up-to-date. Those wishing to become hams can find out when classes and exam session are held. A schedule of Hamfests is included for those wishing to socialize and browse

On Sunday nights, bulletins and the Monroe County FM Net are held to keep the local gang informed and to test equipment. Bulletins begin around 8:20pm with the "Newsline 2002/2003" brought by Ray, WA2MYG. They continue with the "Hilltop Bulletin" from Dwight, K2KWK at 8:45pm. These weekly features alternate from Sunday to Sunday on local repeaters. When they appear on the 146.88 system of the RRRA, they are also linked to the mega-repeaters of Bob, N2HJD on nine amateur bands. On the alternate Sundays they use the K2SA repeater of The Genesee Repeater Association on 146.79.

Tuesday bulletin sessions begin at 8:00pm with the same features from WA2MYG and K2KWK. They appear on the Bristol Mtn. repeater, WR2AHL, 145.110 (pl tone 110.9 required) of Mike, W2HYP. That is linked up full time to the repeater of Greg, KE2VW, operating on 146.67 (pl tone 107.2 required) from a very high location south of the communities of Dunkirk and Fredonia. These two systems enable hams from Syracuse to Erie, PA to hear bulletins that include selected stories from the ARRL Letter and ARRL web site.

News items of interest to radio amateurs are welcome and can be sent to K2KWK at [<k2kwk@arrl.net>](mailto:k2kwk@arrl.net). ARRL Bulletin Stations in Western New York include John, WA2U in the Syracuse area who also sends out voice bulletins in his Central NY Bulletin Service Sundays and Tuesdays. Listeners can reach him by email at [<WA2U@arrl.net>](mailto:WA2U@arrl.net)



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